

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23967 181403Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4050

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23967

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MT LY FR

SUBJECT: MINTOFF ASKS FRENCH TO SUPPORT PROPOSED

TREATY GUARANTEEING MALTESE NEUTRALITY

REF: VALLETTA 0956

1. QUAI ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE REUILLARD'S DESCRIPTION OF SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DESTREMAU'S VISIT TO MALTA GIBED CLOSELY WITH THAT GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR BOYER IN REFTEL. REUILLARD SAID THAT THE NEUTRALITY LANGUAGE OF THE PROPOSED "TREATY" MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRENCH, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS "TO KEEP THE ISLAND FROM GOING TO THE OTHER SIDE". OF COURSE SOME OTHER FORMULATION MIGHT BE FOUND, HE SAID, WHICH PERHAPS WOULD BE MORE SATISFACTORY. AS FOR THE "ECONOMIC VIABILITY" GUARANTEE, REUILLARD SAID THAT MATTER WOULD REQUIRE MUCH GREATER STUDY. HE SUGGESTED THAT AT THE EARLIEST, THE GOF WOULD MAKE AN INTERIM RESPONSE ONLY AFTER THE MALTESE ELECTIONS.

2. REUILLARD SAID HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT THE ITALIANS

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PAGE 02 PARIS 23967 181403Z

HAD HAD A HAND IN DRAFTING THE PROPOSED "TREATY". HE

INDICATED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE COUNTRIES MENTIONED
IN PARA 5 OF REF, MINTOFF TOLD DESTREMAU THAT ALGERIA
HAD NOT REPLIED TO HIS REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF THE PLAN,
AND THAT SPAIN, GREECE AND EGYPT WERE NOT OPPOSED.
REUILLARD GAVE NO SIGN THAT THE FRENCH WOULD HESITATE
TO JOIN LIBYA IN ANY GUARANTEE FOR MALTA.

3. COMMENT: THE QUAI APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT IN THE
ABSENCE OF ANY REAL PROSPECT FOR ATTACHING MALTA
FIRMLY TO THE WEST, SOME SORT OF GUARANTEED NEUTRALITY
MIGHT BE THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT THE RUSSIANS FROM
GAINING EXCESSIVE INFLUENCE THERE.
GAMMON

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